



## Department of Veterans Affairs

Washington, D.C.

### Claude M. (Mick) Kicklighter

Claude M. "Mick" Kicklighter was sworn in August 10, 2001, as the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning. He was nominated by President Bush on June 27, 2001, and confirmed by the Senate August 3, 2001. He previously served as the Deputy Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs and Acting Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs.

After the tragic attack on September 11, 2001, Mr. Kicklighter was selected to direct VA's Crisis Response Team and to establish and direct a new Office of Operations, Security and Preparedness. On March 7, 2003, Secretary Principi approved the addition of Readiness, Emergency Preparedness and Security and Law Enforcement to the Office of Policy and Planning, making Mr. Kicklighter the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy, Planning and Preparedness.

In his current role, Mr. Kicklighter serves as senior advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on strategic planning, policy research and analysis, and program evaluation. With his new responsibilities, he now also serves as senior advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on Department-wide emergency operations, preparedness and security and law enforcement.

Mr. Kicklighter was born and raised in Glennville, Georgia. He graduated from Mercer University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in biology and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Field Artillery. He earned a Masters of Arts Degree in Management of National Resources from the School of Business Administration, George Washington University, and is a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. His overseas tours include France, Germany, Iran, the Netherlands, and two tours in Vietnam.

Mr. Kicklighter commanded at every level from Company through Division. He commanded the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, from 1984 to 1986. He served in staff assignments from Battalion to Headquarters, Department of the Army, the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. From 1987 to 1989 Mr. Kicklighter served as the Director of the Army Staff at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. From 1989 to 1991, he commanded the US Army Pacific, and upon completion of this assignment, he retired from active duty as an Army Lieutenant General. In July 1991, he became the Director of our Nation's effort to thank and honor World War II veterans as we commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WWII. He served as Deputy Under Secretary of the Army for International Affairs from September 1995 until July 1999.

Mr. Kicklighter's military honors include the Distinguished Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Legion of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Bronze Star. His civilian awards include the Presidential Citizen Medal, the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, and the Distinguished Civilian Service Award. He was a member of the Habitat for Humanity, International, Board of Directors for five years (three years as Chairman). He left the Board in November 2001.



**Assistant Secretary  
for Policy, Planning  
and Preparedness**